

certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 426, a bill to increase educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for education and training of physician assistants of the Department, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 18, a resolution reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms.

S. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 60, a resolution designating May 5, 2017, as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls".

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 64—CONGRATULATING THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. JOHNSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 64

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association is the leading association in the United States that represents companies in the plastics industry;

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association was founded as the Society of the Plastics Industry in 1937 in Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania, as the collective voice of a then-nascent plastics industry and has since become the chief advocate for the entire plastics supply chain, including plastics machinery manufacturers, plastics material suppliers, plastics processors, moldmakers, recyclers, and consumer brand owners;

Whereas, today, the Plastics Industry Association represents the interests of an industry that makes regular and vital contributions to the healthcare, automotive, advanced manufacturing, transportation, aeronautics, building and construction, telecommunications, recycling, packaging, and consumer electronics sectors;

Whereas, over the course of the 80-year history of the Plastics Industry Association, the association has—

(1) advocated for the use of plastics; and  
(2) presided over the development of plastic from a low-cost replacement for metals, wood, glass, marble, shell, and other traditional materials to the sustainable material of choice because of its strength, light weight, recyclability, and design versatility;

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association hosts NPE: The Plastics Show, which is the second largest trade show in the United States and attracts more than 60,000 plastics professionals from more than 100 countries to the United States every 3 years;

Whereas the Plastics Industry Association has hosted NPE: The Plastics Show in the United States since the show was first founded in 1946 and the show has served as a platform for growth and innovation in the plastics industry of the United States for 70 years;

Whereas the Federal Government, through the War Production Board, recognized the importance of plastics and the contributions of plastics to the war effort during World War II, a conflict in which plastics played an essential military role with respect to weaponry, aircraft, wire and cable technology, medical devices, and troop supplies; and

Whereas the plastics industry generates \$418,000,000,000 in revenue annually in the United States and supports approximately 954,000 jobs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Plastics Industry Association on its 80th anniversary;

(2) reaffirms the crucial role that plastics have played over the last 80 years and continue to play in strengthening the economy of the United States and improving the everyday lives of the people of the United States; and

(3) recognizes the importance of continued investment in plastics, manufacturing, research, and education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 65—DESIGNATING MARCH 3, 2017, AS "NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 65

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, question, and dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, afterschool, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing people of the United States with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate education and the integration of speech and debate education across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 3, 2017, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day";

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all people of the United States to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 66—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 66

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are trained in skilled professions;

Whereas, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, 80 percent of respondents indicated a moderate to severe shortage of qualified skilled production employees, including front-line workers such as machinists, operators, craft workers, distributors, and technicians;

Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as "CTE") ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability, and many other career fields that are vital in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy;

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas approximately 11,500,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country with CTE programs in thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, and CTE high schools, and nearly 1,700 2-year colleges;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the 3 fastest growing occupations require an associate's degree or a degree with fewer requirements, and each has an annual median salary greater than \$50,000;

Whereas CTE matches employability skills with workforce demand and provides relevant academic and technical coursework